

## OPERANDUM

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An editor recently objected to *manipulandum* as “not in the dictionary.” (A form, *manipulare*, of which it could conceivably be the gerundive, is only late medieval Latin and therefore lacking in status.) Tolman, who seems to have introduced the term, defines *manipulanda* as “the characters of objects which support motor activity.” In current usage, they are the objects themselves. Strictly speaking, the term does not describe a device such as a foot-pedal or a voice-key which is not operated by hand, but *manipulate* has

long since been generalized beyond that restriction.

A better and simpler word can be derived from *operari*. A piece of apparatus operated by an organism could appropriately be called an *operatus*, but this is dangerously close to a pun and would certainly be confusing. The gerundive *operandum* ought to be considered, however, as an alternative to *manipulandum*. It is close to *operant*, and its similarity to *manipulandum* and *operate* makes its meaning obvious.

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This note first appeared in the April, 1962, issue of *JEAB* (5, 224) and is reproduced here to remind readers and authors of the origin of the term commonly used in this journal to describe response-measuring devices.